

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY BWG:MDRAPER:CF

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NEA/EX - MR JONES

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PER/CA/FS/NEA - MR MCGOWAN(INFO)

SCA - MISS FOWLER (INFO)

S/S - MR. HOGANSON

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O 171651Z JUL 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 177767

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, LE, SY, GR, US

SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION

1. ATHENS IS DESIGNATED SAFEHAVEN FOR THE EVACUEES WE WILL BE BRINGING OUT OF BEIRUT ON TUESDAY, JULY 20. EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS ALREADY REGISTERED 211 EVACUEES (BOTH U.S. AND OTHER NATIONALS) AND THE TOTAL NUMBER COULD RPT COULD APPROACH 300. MOST WILL GO BY ROAD CONVOY TO DAMASCUS ARRIVING THERE IN THE MID-AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING OF THE SAME DAY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT A RELATIVELY SMALLNUMBER OF THESE EVACUEES WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY BE TAKEN OUT OF BEIRUT BY A CHARTERED U.S. FLAG AIRCRAFT TO ATHENS, ALTHOUGH A DECISION ON THIS LATTER OPTION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE.

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2. SOME OF THE EVACUEES GOING BY ROAD CONVOY WHO HAVE THEIR OWN PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES PRESUMABLY WILL MAKE THEIR OWN WAY OUT OF SYRIA BY ROAD. SINCE WE HAVE A COMMITMENT TO THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT TO MOVE OUR EVACUEES ALONG PROMPTLY, IF NECESSARY WE INTEND TO HAVE A CHARTERED AIRCRAFT BRING ALL THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE ALTERNATIVE ONWARD TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS TO ATHENS, IDEALLY ON THE NIGHT OF THE 20TH.

3. MOST OF THE APPROXIMATELY 23 USG AMERICAN EMPLOYEES BEING EVACUATED WILL HAVE ONWARD TRAVEL ORDERS, BUT A FEW MAY REMAIN IN ATHENS ON EVACUATION OR TDY ORDERS TEMPORARILY. WILL PROVIDE DETAILS LATER.

4. PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN DURING JUNE EVACUATION REMAIN VALID. KISSINGER

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NNN

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